

APPENDIX C

DEVELOPMENT OF AN AIRDROP OPERATIONAL RATION STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE

Airdrop of rations may be required when other resupply modes will not permit timely resupply. Use of airdrop during field training should be minimized to preclude loss of subsistence; however, when airdrops must be used preplanning is essential.

Airdrop of operational rations (MREs, T-Rations) should be considered early by the G3/S3 planning cell in support of deployments or exercises to prevent the loss of rations and training dollars. Planning considerations should include the length of the exercise, when the airdrop is planned (beginning and end of exercise), and the number of personnel to be supported. This will ensure that the airdropped rations can be consumed prior to the end of the exercise (ENDEX). Key personnel in the planning cell should include the food advisor and senior food service supervisor to assist in preparing and ordering the ration cycle and mix needed for successful completion of the units' mission in accordance with the commanders intent.

Operational rations that are airdropped into the operational area will be accounted for and handled as any other operational ration in the theater. There is no adjustment needed to the shelf-life of operational rations due to air drop procedures. Current standards are 100 percent survivability for low-level airdrops and 75 percent survivability for free-fall airdrops. Operational rations airdropped into the operational area will be handled by development of a local SOP to cover the following areas:

- Procedures identifying the operational rations by marking them with a distinctive color or symbol. (Use red spray paint to mark the ends of the cases.)
- Procedures for checking of operational rations considered having possible defects as a

result of the airdrop. These procedures will cover VETCOM requirements for holding, inspecting, and disposition of rations.

- Procedures for identifying and accounting for airdropped rations that cannot be recovered (aircraft went down, dropped in lake). These rations will be accounted for in accordance with procedures in AR 30-21.

- Planning requirements for the mission should be closely considered in the operational planning for Class I to prevent undue waste and training dollars lost due to improper planning. Airdropped rations not consumed during the deployment will not be allowed to be turned back into the TISA.

Airdropped operational rations that cannot be consumed in the field will be transferred to another unit in the field or returned to garrison dining facility for consumption. The transfer of these rations will cover the following procedures:

- Transferred to another unit or returned to garrison operations will be accomplished on a DA Form 3294 and marked "Air Dropped" operational rations. Disposition and accountability of rations will be accomplished on DA Form 5914-R in accordance with AR 30-21.
- FIFO by date of pack will not apply to airdropped operational rations. They will be consumed as soon as possible.

NOTE: *If at anytime there is a question as to the shelf-life, quality, or safety of airdropped operational rations, VETCOM personnel will be contacted. They will evaluate and make a final determination as to the disposition of the rations.*